

REMARKS

This response is entered to indicate that Claims 1- 38 were cancelled, Claims 39, 41-43, 45, and 46 are "CURRENTLY AMENDED", and the claims have been presented in ascending order in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. In summary, claims 1-38, 40, and 47-50 have been cancelled. Claims 39, 41-43, 45, and 46 have been amended. New claim 51 has been added. Accordingly claims 39, 41-46 and 51 are active and reconsideration thereof is requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 41-46 were objected to because of certain informalities. Claim 41 because there was no antecedent for "said periphery of the shadow mask". And claims 42-46 recite "said mask" without an antecedent basis. Claims have been amended to provide the required antecedent basis to overcome these objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC Section 112

Claims 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Concerning Claim 39, the examiner pointed out that it recited the limitation "said improved contact processing of said perimeter chips is additional dummy solder bumps to support a second

shadow mask used to deposit an additional layer of material on said solder bumps so said second shadow mask does not damage perimeter chip solder bumps". It was unclear how the contact processing of the chips is equivalent to the dummy solder bumps which are elements, not an act of processing. Claim 39 has been amended to only include the process of adding additional dummy solder bumps to support a second shadow mask.

Based on the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 39 is now allowable under 35 USC 112.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted with appreciation that the examiner indicated that claims 41-46 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this response claim 41 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base and intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 41 should be in condition for allowance along with all the claims which now depend on claim 41. It is also respectfully submitted that new claim 51 which is directed to the patentable process of fabricating a shadow mask comprising the additional dummy holes omitted in a ring shaped exclusion zone along the periphery of the shadow mask while beyond the perimeter chips and beyond dummy holes.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims active in the subject patent application is in condition for allowance and that the application should be passed to issuance.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

For: Cox, et al.

By: *Anthony J. Canale* Reg# 51,526

for: Robert A. Walsh
Registration No. 26,516
Telephone No.: (480) 429-2293
EMAIL: walshra@us.ibm.com

International Business Machines Corporation
Intellectual Property Law - Mail 972E
1000 River Road
Essex Junction, VT 05452